employees, alongwith the quantum of assistance provided by Government to this institution during the last three years, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ICWA is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and the ministry of External Affairs have no direct locus standi in the affairs of the ICWA. The Ministry has in the past seven years taken a number of steps to help improve the functioning and management of the ICWA but these have remined abortive due to the non-cooperative attitude of the ICWA President. He had agreed to set up an advisory committee of three eminent persons to be nominated by this Ministry for which a resolution was to be passed by the Governing Body of the ICWA. No response has been received from the President in this regard.

Frequent complaints have been received by this Ministry, duly forwarded by several Members of Parliament. These have been forwarded to the Registrar of Societies with the request that congnizance be taken of the various eomplaints and appropriate measures taken to put the working of the ICWA in order. The Registrar of Societies has informed this Ministry that he is not vested with any authority to look into or interfere in the day-to-day management of the Society and suggested that if any member or employee of the Society has any complaint/grievance against the management of the Council, he/she may take legal course through the competent Court of Law.

The Ministry of External affairs has not provided any fiancial asistance to the Indian Council of World Affairs since 1985.

Re-Activation of NAM

1715. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under their consideration a range of measures to re-activate the Non-Aligned Movement; and

(b) whether Governments of other developing countries have been approached for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a)and (b) measures to re-activate and enhance the role of NAM were discussed by the XIIth NAM Ministerial Conference held at new Delhi in April 1997. The Ministers agreed that the Movement should enhance its unity and cohesion and coordinate positios on major international issues with a view to strengthening its role. the matter is being pursued by the NAM Ministeral Committee on Methodology on a continuing basis. This will be discussed again during the forthcoming NAM Ministerial Conference on the occasion of the 52nd UNGA in September, 1997.

Problems of Indians Working in South Africa

1716. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems being faced by Indians working in South Africa have been brought to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Indian mission in South Africa to deal with those problems and the response of the Government of South Africa to our representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Government 's attention has been drawn to a representation from the indian Association of South Africa, Transkei region, regarding possible termination of employment conracts of Indian teachers

working in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

(b) The High Commission of India in South Africa has been in regular contact with the relevant national and provincial authorities in South Africa with a view to securing the best interests of our citizens in that country. A Committee appointed by the Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial parliament to look into this matter has submitted a report recommending that no terminations of contracts should be effected pending the conduct of a detailed investigation about expatriates in the province and that the requirements of communities should be taken into consideration on reaching final decisions. The report is under the consideration of the Eastern Cape provincial government of South Africa.

G-7 Countries Banning the Export of New Technology to Public Sector Companies

1717. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the G-7 countries had banned the export of new technology/machinery and materials to any of the Public Sector Companies in India;

(b) if so, the countries which have enforced the ban;

(c) the companies against whom the ban has been imposed; and

(d) the reaction of Government towards this action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) The United States Department of Commerce has notified four Indian Companies/organisations under US domestic legislation pertaining to US non-proliferation concerns. following this notification all imports from the US by these organisations will be under licence procedures.

(c) Two public sector companies-Bharat Electronic Limited and indian Rare Earths Limited and two research institutions—Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research have been notified.

(d) Government have taken up this matter with US authorities. India's exemplary record in not permitting export of dual-use items to countries where it could be used for non-civilian purposes has been pointed out.

Compensation to the Victims of Fire Tragedy at Mina

1718. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the actual number of Indians who lost their lives or had been seriously injured in the fire that broke out at Mina near Mecca on the 15th April, 1997;

(b) what are the details of compensation paid by Indian and Saudi Arabia Governments;

(c) whether Government have raised the question of safety of the haj pilgrims in future; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Saudi Arabia?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The number of Indian Haj pilgrims who are declared as killed in the Mina fire of April 15 is 170. The number of the injured is 424.

(b) Government of India has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rupees one lakh to the next of kin of each indian pilgrim killed in the fire. A similar amount will be paid to the permanently disabled. Further, free medical treatment has been made available to the injured with financial help as required. Rupees 10,000 each was disbursed to the seriously injured pilgrims who were hospitalised